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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,811	04/26/2005	Jiro Suzuki	1163-0532PUS1	9383
2292	7590	02/23/2006		EXAMINER
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			DOAN, JENNIFER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2874	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

HFA

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/532,811	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jennifer Doan	2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5 and 11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 6-10 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 042605.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The prior art documents submitted by applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on 04/26/2005, have all been considered and made of record (note the attached copy of form PTO-1449).

Drawings

2. The drawings, filed on 04/26/2005, are accepted.

Specification

3. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

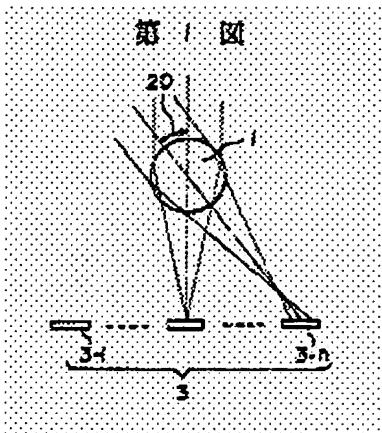
5. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Satoshi et al. (JP 63-095742).

With respect to claims 1 and 2, Satoshi et al. (figure 1) disclose an optical antenna comprising a plurality of optical transmitting and receiving means (see figure 1) for radiating an outgoing optical signal to space or to receive an incoming optical signal from the space; arrangement means (1) for mounting the plurality of optical transmitting and receiving means at different positions; and an optical system for transmitting when the optical signal is radiated from the optical transmitting and receiving means, the optical signal to the space with refracting the optical signal to spherical waves and for focusing when the optical signal arrives from the space, the optical signal onto the optical transmitting and receiving means (see the abstract and figure 1).

With respect to claim 3, Satoshi et al. (abstract) disclose an optical antenna further comprising control means for simultaneously driving the plurality of optical transmitting and receiving means.

With respect to claim 4, Satoshi et al. (abstract) disclose an optical antenna further comprising control means for driving any desired optical transmitting and receiving means of the plurality of optical transmitting and receiving means.

With respect to claim 5, Satoshi et al. (abstract) disclose an optical antenna further comprising a driving mechanism for making the positions variable of the optical transmitting and receiving means mounted on the arrangement means.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoshi et al. (as cited above) in view of Katsuaki (JP 04-093910).

With respect to claim 11, Satoshi et al. substantially disclose all the limitations of the claimed invention except a first lens, a second lens, a third lens and a fourth lens are disposed in this order from a side of the object to be measured.

However, Katsuaki (figure 5) discloses an optical device having a first lens, a second lens, a third lens and a fourth lens are disposed in this order from a side of the object (abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Satoshi to include the first lens, the second lens, the third lens and the fourth lens are disposed in this order from a side of the object (accordance with the teaching of Katsuaki) for the purpose of excellently improving various aberrations.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 6-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest the optical antenna further comprising selecting means for selecting a desired optical fiber from a plurality of optical fibers mounted on the arrangement means and connecting the optical fiber selected to the optical transmitting and receiving means as recited in claim 6.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer Doan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2346. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 6:00 am to 3:30 pm, second Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JENNIFER DOAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

JD

February 21, 2006